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HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES ARE BEING PLANNED

Local ministers are planning Holy Week and Easter Services for area churches for April 12 through April 18.

Minister making plans, shown above left to right, are Cecil V. Dalton, Appomattox Court House Presbyterian Church; Henry Riley, Memorial United Methodist Church; Clarence Davis, New Hope Baptist Church; and Doyle Chauncey, Liberty Baptist Church. Absent when the photo was taken was Harmon Smith, new Vicar of St. Anne's Episcopal Church.

JUNIOR WOMANS CLUB DONATES TO RESCUE SQUAD

Mrs. J. T. Guill of the Appomattox Junior Woman's Club is shown presenting check for $75.00 to Anderson Scruggs, President of the Appomattox County Rescue Squad. The donation will apply to the purchase of "hair-stretcher" to be placed in one of the vehicles, an excellent piece of equipment to use in bringing a person down a flight of stairs.

Money for this donation was made by the club women on the "Happy Basket" at the Fall Dance. Mrs. J. T. Guill and Mrs. John Pedison are co-chairmen of the Ways and Means Committee for the club.

Va. Cattle Producers To Hold Referendum

Following a public hearing held by the State Board of Agriculture Commerce on January 23, the Board gave its approval for Virginia cattle producers to hold a referendum to determine whether or not they wish to assess themselves 15 cents per head on certain cows and calves when sold in Virginia.

The proposal, if approved, would establish a Virginia Beef Cattle Commission, and the Commission would use the funds collected from the self-assessment to conduct a program of education, publicity and promotion of the sale and use of beef, veal, and their products. A two-thirds majority of those voting is required for passage.

Before cattle producers can vote in the referendum, they first must be certified as eligible. Any cattle producer who owned 10 or more cattle on either July 1,1975 or January 1,1976 is eligible to vote provided he properly completes a certification form and returns it to the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Commerce (VDAC) **not later** than March 19,1976. Certification forms will be made available to all cattle producers through direct mailings, county extension offices, public meetings, auction markets, agricultural supply stores, etc.

After certification forms are received by VDAC, eligible voters will be mailed ballots on April 6. Voters must complete ballots and return them to VDAC in envelopes supplied. **The ballots must be postmarked on or before April 23,1976 to be eligible for counting.**

The ballots will be counted on May 3,1976 by five official judges who will be appointed by VDAC Commissioner S. Mason Carbaugh. The count will take place in the Richmond office of VDAC. As soon as the results of the referendum are certified to Commissioner Carbaugh, he will publicly declare the results of the vote and certify the results to the Governor and State Board of Agriculture and Commerce.

"Family Fare" Cookbook Can Be Obtained From Your Congressman

WASHINGTON..Fifth District Congressman Dan Daniel said today that he has received a limited supply of the revised "Family Fare" cookbook for distribution from the Department of Agriculture.

Copies of the book may be obtained by writing or visiting the District Office at 104-A High Street, Farmville,Va. 23901.

The book contains a wide variety of recipes and is one of the most popular publications distributed by the government.

The Pastor Speaks

STORMS HAVE A CLEARING DAY

A medical doctor was called out one evening to go and talk with a man who was attempting suicide. Upon arriving at the man's home the doctor found the man at the top of his stairs standing in a chair, with a rope tied around his neck ready to take his life. As the doctor talked with the man he said, "Friend, there was never a storm so gray that did not have its clearing day." The man untied the rope and got down from the chair.

"We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purposes." (Romans 8:28 N.A.S)God can take all the storms of fear, sickness, hurt, loneliness, financial difficulty and broken relationships and turn them into something good for our Christian lives, if we have faith in Him and allow His will to be done in our lives.

Steel is made strong through heat and Christians are made stronger through trying times. Difficulties take on a new perspective when we understand this fact. After we have trusted in Jesus Christ as Master and Saviour of our lives, difficulties that seem so dark and gray can be used as opportunities of growth. God can use the darkest difficulty and turn it in the end into a beatuiful victory and a sunny day from the storm of difficulty.

Would you trust in Jesus Christ and turn your life over to Him today, to turn your stormy life into a clearing day?

Robert E. Reese
Associate Pastor
Liberty Baptist Church

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The Sunday School Lesson

COMMENTS BY HERBERT C. BRADSHAW

Lesson For February 8, 1976

Parables of the Kingdom
Scripture: Matthew 13

But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and for your ears, for they hear. Matt. 13:16

Because He used parables so effectively in His teaching, we immediately think of this method when the teaching of Jesus is mentioned. He did did not originate the use of parables, but adapted to His teaching their use which had been made popular by the rabbis. As commonly defined, parables are stories which teach a moral or spiritual lesson. A parable is more, however; it is a comparison in which the known is used to teach or explain something that is not known. In the group of parables recorded in Matthew 13, on which this week's International Sunday School lesson is based, Jesus used familiar experiences and settings to explain the kingdom of heaven, or of God, a comment new and unfamiliar to His hearers.

The curiosity of the crowds which attended Jesus as He went about Galilee must have been kindled by His references to the kingdom of heaven. The people must have asked each other and reflected on it themselves, "What does He mean by the kingdom of Heaven?" When He told them, as Matthew recorded in the Sermon on the Mount and as Jesus probably repeated frequently in His teaching, "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well," He gave it a priority which aroused their interest even more.

Through parables in which Jesus compared the kingdom to what His hearers knew, Jesus undertook to satisfy their curiosity, not simply to give them information, but more importantly to persuade them to seek to enter it. There is always a risk in drawing an analogy as a parable does and in trying to explain the unknown in terms of the known. There will be those who will miss the comparison and fail to see the point. Different people will interpret the same parable differently. There will be those on whom the meaning will be lost. Jesus told His disciples, who themselves did not understand or trust themselves to interpret correctly some of the parables, that He taught in parables in order that some, those who opposed Him and wanted to keep Him from gaining influence with people, would not understand the nature of the kingdom and the thrust of His message.

Following his method of arranging his account topically, Matthew put several parables about the kingdom of heaven in this section, both to show this method of Jesus' teaching and to illustrate what the kingdom is.

The parables of the mustard seed and the leaven make a pair which forecast, the great growth of the kingdom from the small beginning in Jesus' ministry in a remote province of a great empire. Just as a large shrub grows from a tiny seed, so the kingdom will grow into a mighty force. Just as a small amount of leaven causes a sizable quantity of dough to rise, so the kingdom will have a tremendous influence in society. There is an element of encouragement here to let the disciples know that by becoming involved in the work of the kingdom they will be engaged in work of magnitude and importance.

The pair of parables of the buried treasure and the valuable pearl show the surpassing worth of the kingdom. It is the most precious of treasures, worth disposing of other treasures to acquire. Some will find the kingdom by chance, as apparently the man found the treasure in a field. Such treasure was not imagination, for over the centuries people in Palestine, and elsewhere, have buried valuable possessions to protect them from invading armies or thieves and never recovered them. A lady in Farmville buried her silver in the railroad cut as the armies drew near in 1865 and never recovered it. Some will find the kingdom by searching for it, as the merchant found the pearl of great value.

The parable of the seine is the companion parable to that of the tares.

An understanding of the kingdom of God gives new treasure to the one who acquires it. Added to the knowledge of the law and the prophets, it gave the believer a dual store from which he could draw for the enrichment of his own life and the benefit of those to whom he ministered. For us it could mean adding the knowledge of God and His Kingdom to our secular learning.

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

Capitol Comments

by Dan Daniel

WASHINGTON - On January 14, our newsletter concerned the defense appropriation as it relates to the total Federal budget. The next week, we explored some of the ways by which spending could be reduced. Today, another facet of the problem will be examined, and that is the mission facing the armed forces.

For most of this nation's life, we have relied, successfully, on the citizen - soldier's response to the government's call in time of peril. During those periods when we were not at war, we have chosen to live to ourselves, taking little note of other nations' affairs when they were not intruding on our own.

But the past quarter-century has seen a vastly different situation as regards our country and the rest of the world. Things are not the way they once were, and they will never be that way again. While we cannot be the world's policeman, non - involvement in world affairs in a luxury we can no longer afford. The United States has political and economic interests in the world which must be met through foreign policies, supported by our military policies.

Our interests are under challenge, primarily by the Soviet Union. These challenges can be seen in Europe, along the shores of the Mediterranean, in the Middle East, in Africa, in the Persian Gulf. And yes, even in Asia, where that nation moves in and out of the picture as regards the two Koreas.

Today, the Armed Forces of the United States are capable of fulfilling the Constitutional obligation to "provide for the common defense". But what of tomorrow?

While the diplomats talk of detente and limitation of arms, a frightening buildup has occurred in Sovit military preparedness. Over the past decade, Soviet manpower has expanded by one million, to 4.4 million. In that same period they have increased Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles by 1,400, Sea-Launched Ballistic Missiles by about 700, and strategic warheads and bombs by a little over 2,000. Equally or even more disturbing than sheer numbers is the increase in complexity and performance of these weapons. The USSR has developed four new ICBMs, two of which are equipped with multiple independently targeted re-entry vehicles. They have produced a new generation of submarines; one version carries a 4,200-mile-range missile, and they have vastly improved the accuracy of their missiles. These are things I am sure you would rather not read about. The terminology is foreign to most of us; the use is something we would rather not contemplate. But we must.

In determining the adequacy of our defense, there are four primary elements of concern. The first is the strategic nuclear situation. As of today, our forces retain "credible" capability to deter an all-out nuclear attack. But there are potential problems. Our submarine and bomber forces are aging, while the Soviets are improving their anti-submarine and bomber defenses. This leads to the second problem, which is the possibility of a fall-off of support by our allies if they perceive a shift in the balance of capability and commitment between the two powers. Finally, if the USSR continues its military development at the current pace, our Minuteman force may lose its survivability in the next decade, severely curtailing our ability to respond to attack in a controlled fashion.

The situation in Europe gives no cause for joy. There is a weakness in the southern flank of NATO, and while in the crucial center region our forces are adequate to the potential need, two factors cannot be ignored. If we reduce manpower in Europe and garrison the troops in the United States, as has often been suggested, we lack the airlift capability to send reinforcements to Europe in a timely fashion. Improvements in armaments and mobility of Warsaw Pact countries assign, the adversary a decided advantage. Early action on the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction agreement would be enormously helpful, but the two sides have been unable to agree on the nature of the problem, let alone the solution.

Then there is the situation in Northeast Asia. There does not seem to be any encouragement or support extended to North Korea by Russia, but the presence of U.S. troops in South Korea is unquestionably a deterring factor to the North Koreans.

By far the most disturbing area of concern is at sea. The present assessment is that our fleet can control the North Atlantic, but only after serious losses to shipping, and our ability to operate in the Eastern Mediterranean is uncertain at best. In the Pacific, sea lanes to Hawaii and Alaska could be held open, but there is real question about lines of communication into the Western Pacific. Undeniably, we require the major elements of a two-ocean Navy.

If you feel the case for a strong defense is overstated, then we offer the words of Leonid Brezhnev just three years ago: ". . . the class struggle between the two systems - the capitalist and the socialist - in the economic, political and . . . ideological spheres will continue. It cannot be otherwise, because the world outlook and class aims of socialism and capitalism are opposed and irreconcilable."

APPOMATTOX COUNTY YOUNG HOMEMAKERS

The Appomattox County Young Homemakers will meet on Thurs., Feb. 12 at 7:30 in the Appomattox County High School Home Economics Dept. The 1976 officers will be installed and all members are reminded to bring in their monthly program suggestions.

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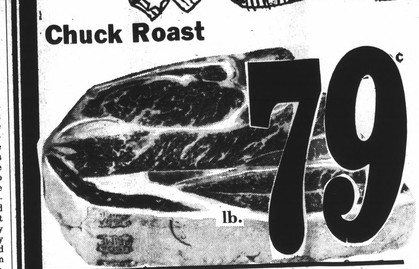

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